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What does Paul's approach to the Decalogue reveal about his attitude towards the Torah? The case of direct references to the Decalogue in Romans

Abstract

Paul quotes the Decalogue in Rom 2:21–22, 7:7 and 13:9. The texts are discussed as connected not only at a formal level concerning the quotation of the Decalogue, but also – and this is the centre of the discussion – they are recognized as connected at a conceptual level regarding the way of making reference to the Decalogue and/or non-accidental contextual details. Since the approach to the Decalogue as the essence of the Torah was common to the religious context Paul lived in, we can state that also these texts that show his approach to the Decalogue can help us to see revealing a certain principle of the perception of the essence of the whole Law as such. The conclusion has been drawn that Paul unlocks the meaning of the Decalogue, and thus of the Law in general, with a special key: the principle of personalism.